



5. On May 23rd, 2000 the temperature at Lubbock, Texas reached 105 degrees F., tying the all-time record for May set on the 19th in 1996. Then on the 24th of the month the temperatures reached 109 degrees F which set a new daily maximum temperature record as well as a new monthly maximum temperature record for May
6. On May 23rd, 2000 the temperature at Wichita Falls, Texas was 110 degrees F, which broke both the daily record. The 110 degree F reading was also the hottest temperature recorded in the month of May at Wichita Falls. The previous record was 108 degrees F. set in 1998.
7. On May 24th, 2000 the temperature reached 110 degrees F at Carlsbad, NM. This tied the state record maximum temperature for May previously set at Rincon in May of 1896.
8. May 25th, 2000 was the first day of the 2000 season that the high temperature at Columbia, SC reached or exceeded 100 degrees F. This was also the first day at or above 100 in Columbia since August 18th, 1999.
9. The high temperature on May 28th in Grand Junction, CO reached 96 degrees F. This reading set a new record for the date. The old record was 93 degrees set in 1958. This was also the hottest temperature ever recorded in May and was the hottest for so early in the season.
10. The high temperature on May 29th reached 122 degrees F in Death Valley California. This reading broke the state record of 121 degrees set in Blythe, California in 1910 and earlier years. This is also a new national record maximum temperature for the month of May.
11. Goodland, Kansas and Burlington, Colorado both peaked out above 100 degrees on May 29th, which makes it the first time in historical record that either of these sites reached 100 degrees F. in May. Goodland, KS reached 103 degrees breaking the old record of 99 set back in 1934. Burlington, CO reached 101 breaking the old record of 96 set back in 1921.
12. Tucson, AZ experienced their warmest May on record this year. The monthly average temperature for May 2000 was 80.2 degrees, + 6.2 degrees above average. The old record was 79.9 degrees set back in 1984. The year 2000 is also shaping up to be one of the warmest and driest on record as well. The average temperature for the first five months of 2000 is 64.4 and ranks as the third warmest. Also, only 1.22 inches of rain has been recorded this year which is over four and a third inches below normal. The last measurable rain fell on March 27th, 2000.

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## **Rainfall**

1. Muskegon County airport in Muskegon, Michigan has now sailed beyond its previous wettest month of May ever recorded. The may rainfall total as of the 30th was 7.45 inches, surpassing the previous high from 1990 by almost an inch.

2. The monthly rainfall total at the NWS Office in Grand Rapids, Michigan was 9.59 inches as of May 30th, 2000. Lansing's monthly total as of the same date/time was 6.98 inches, the third wettest month of May on record.

The following is a list of the top 5 may rainfall totals for each site as of May 30th, 2000.

Grand Rapids		Lansing		Muskegon	
2000	9.59 in.	1943	7.98 in.	2000	7.45 in.
1981	8.29 in.	1945	7.42 in.	1990	6.48 in.
1911	7.18 in.	2000	6.98 in.	1904	6.20 in.
1942	6.83 in.	1989	6.57 in.	1905	5.72 in.
1976	6.63 in.	1912	6.57 in.	1933	5.71 in.

3. As of the evening of May 24th, 2000, rainfall at Binghamton, NY was 6.53 inches. This is a new record for the highest May rainfall; the previous record was 6.46 inches set in May of 1968. This also makes the first 5 months of 2000 the wettest such 5 month since records began at the airport in 1951. The previous record was set in 1998 when 21.39 inches of rain fell between Jan 1st and May 31st. Records were also examined for downtown Binghamton from 1926 through 1968 as well without finding any wetter periods.

#### Top 5 Wettest Jan-May Periods

JAN 1 - MAY 24 2000	22.57 in.
JAN 1 - MAY 31 1998	21.39 in.
JAN 1 - MAY 31 1983	19.25 in.
JAN 1 - MAY 31 1984	18.28 in.
JAN 1 - MAY 31 1979	17.92 in.

4. Waterloo, IA set a new record rainfall total for May, they received 8.60 inches breaking the old record of 8.54 inches set in 1902. The beginning of the month started dry with only .56 inches of rain in the first seventeen days. Thus 93 percent of the total rainfall fell in the last 14 days of the month. During that time, four significant rain events lead to 85 percent of the monthly total..

#### Significant daily rainfall totals for Waterloo, Iowa- May 2000.

MAY 18:	2.35 in.
MAY 31:	1.98 in.
MAY 30:	1.86 in.
MAY 26:	1.10 in.

5. The total rainfall for the month of May at Bush Field airport in Augusta, GA was only .36 inches. This is the driest May on record, with less precipitation than the previous dry May of 1951 when .48 inches fell.

6. Tampa, FL also recorded its driest May on Record. May 2000 recorded only .02 inches of rain. The previous record dry May was .07 set in 1994, official records in Tampa begin in 1890.

The 10 driest months in Tampa are as follows:

MAR 1907...TRACE  
JAN 1950...TRACE  
NOV 1960...TRACE  
APR 1967...TRACE  
APR 1981...TRACE  
NOV 1978...0.01 INCHES  
OCT 1940...0.02 INCHES  
MAY 2000...0.02 INCHES  
OCT 1942...0.03 INCHES  
NOV 1931...0.04 INCHES

The current drought began unofficially in October of 1998 and for that 20 month period rainfall has totaled a mere 39.22 inches at the Tampa International Airport. This breaks the previous 20 month record set between October 1943 and May 1945 of 42.79 inches by a 3.57 inch margin. The population of the Tampa Bay metro area in the mid 40's was about 15 percent of what it is today. The end of May also completes the second driest start to a calendar year on record. The record of 2.55 inches was set in 1898 when the population of the area was only 3 percent of what it is today. The drought has also affected stream and river flow with gaging points in the region at 25 percent of normal or less with some stations reporting record low water levels. Also, for the dry season measured from October through May, the 1999-2000 season ranks as fourth driest; the October 1998 through May 1999 season ranks second.

The five driest starts to a calendar year (Jan-May period):

2.55 inches	1898
3.11 inches	2000
3.31 inches	1907
4.01 inches	1922
4.57 inches	1949

7. During May only 0.02 inches of precipitation fell at Charleston, SC and May 2000 is tied with 1747 as the second driest May on record. May of 1754 is the driest May with 0.00 inches. (Courtesy Wes Tyler- SC Dept of Natural Resources)

8 At Clemson, SC May 2000 was the driest on record with a total of only .15 inches of precipitation. Records begin in 1892. (Courtesy Dale Linville- Clemson University)

9. Macon, GA had its driest May on record. Measurable rainfall fell on two different days in May 2000 and totaled only .30 inches. The previous record driest May was in 1956 when only .32 inches fell. Macon usually has 9 rain days with an average of 3.57 inches.

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## **Snowfall**

1. None reported.
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## **Wind**

1. Severe thunderstorms produced an 81 MPH wind gust at the NWS Forecast Office in Shreveport, LA Saturday evening May 27th at 9:35 PM. This ties the third highest gust of record which was set during a severe weather outbreak of April 12th, 1991. The all time gust record in Shreveport remains at 87 MPH recorded during a severe thunderstorm on Nov 23rd, 1983. The second highest gust was 83 MPH recorded in a thunderstorm on May 3rd, 1991.
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## **Pressure**

1. None reported yet.
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## **Miscellaneous**

1. None reported yet.
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### Citing the Article

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